

# LATHAM & WATKINS<sup>LLP</sup>

January 13, 2003

## **BY ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Petition by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c), for Commission Agreement in Redefining the Service Area of CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc., a Rural Telephone Company; Application for Review of CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc. (Public Notice DA 03-26, rel. Jan. 7, 2003); and  
*Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Order Referring Issues Relating to High-Cost Support (FCC 02-307, rel. Nov. 8, 2002) --  
Notice of *Ex Parte* Communications in CC Docket 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, January 7, Wednesday, January 8, and Thursday, January 9, Jeff Glover of CenturyTel, John Jones of CenturyTel, and I had *ex parte* meetings at the Commission concerning the above-referenced proceeding. Msrs. Glover and Jones and I met on Tuesday with Commissioner Martin and Dan Gonzalez, and on Wednesday with Commissioner Abernathy and Matt Brill. On Thursday, Mr. Jones and I met with Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, and with William Maher, Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau ("WCB"), Carol Matthey, WCB Deputy Chief, Anita Cheng, Assistant Chief of the WCB Telecommunications Access Policy Division, and Cara Voth and Narda Jones of the WCB Telecommunications Access Policy Division.

In these meetings, we discussed CenturyTel's Application For Review or, in the Alternative, Petition For Reconsideration filed December 17, 2002 in the above-captioned proceeding. On behalf of CenturyTel we urged that the Commission act promptly to grant CenturyTel's application for review of the Bureau's decision not to initiate a proceeding to carefully consider the above-captioned matter. Further, we urged the Commission to toll the effectiveness of such decision, so that the redefinition of the CenturyTel of Eagle study area would be suspended until this proceeding is concluded. We discussed the points made in CenturyTel's Application For Review, as well as its December 23 *ex parte* letter in this docket.

CenturyTel also urges that the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to move forward as quickly as possible and release the Joint Board's request for comment on the FCC's November 8, 2002 Order in CC Docket 96-45 (FCC 02-307) seeking comment on the designation of competitive eligible telecommunications carriers and their receipt of federal high-cost universal service support.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to me.

Very truly yours,

Karen Brinkmann

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Matthew Brill, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy  
Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps  
Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin  
William Maher, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Anita Cheng, Assistant Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, WCB  
Narda Jones, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, WCB  
Cara Voth, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, WCB